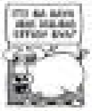


Lizard-like effigy ready for burning

By Norman Bordadora



PNP instructs men: Cool it, ignore taunts

By Luige A. del Puerto and Norman Bordadora

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, July 25, 2005

THE CHANGING FACE OF A SONA EFFIGY



12 votes short to impeach

But GMA opponents are still hopeful

By Michael Lim Ubac

AN OPPOSITION bid on the eve of the opening of Congress to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo over election fraud charges is 12 votes shy of the required number to bring the case immediately to trial amid a warning the antagonists are locked in a deadly "zero-sum battle for power."



A GLOW IN THE DARKNESS?

A challenge to the President to regain the initiative

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

Sona today biggest media attraction

By Michael Lim Ubac, Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

45% of Sona listeners await lies, says poll

10-POINT AGENDA

Palace rates GMA performance 'above passing'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Michelle V. Remo

Second FRONT PAGE

Original YOU tells new YOU: Been there, done that

By Luige A. del Puerto

FOUNDERS of the Young Officers Union yesterday gave this unsolicited advice to junior officers in the military who have reportedly revived the former rightist group: A coup will not do.



MURAL FOR PEACE AND UNITY

Witness says 'jueteng' full blast in 3 provinces

By Christian V. Esguerra

BIR memo draws flak from revenue officers

By Michelle V. Remo

False fire alarm delays JAL flight

Drilon maintains grip on top Senate post for now

By TJ Burgonio



DRILON: The target



SANTIAGO: The wannabe

Pinoy missing in Mekong bridge accident identified

120 kg of ammonium nitrate seized at port

9 Filipino flying voters caught in Indonesia

Sona today biggest media blockbuster



MUSLIMS living in Maharlika Village in Taguig voice out their problems under the Arroyo administration during a rally on the eve of the President's State of the Nation Address.

'Beat the odds'

Constitutional amendments

De Venecia agenda

Respect for presidency

A challenge to GMA to regain the initiative

Challenge to GMA

Impeachment

UK, Canada issue travel advisory vs RP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

SUERTRES 6 6 7
EZ2 6 18

METRO

Editor: Rene C. Dipasupil

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
9 11 20 26 33 45
P18,627,037.80

VALENTINE'S DAY BOMBING

Judge says verdict out in a month

By Tetch V. Quirimento

AT A PACE that seems rare in the country's courts, the trial looking into the Valentine's Day bombing in Makati City wrapped up Thursday afternoon after four months of hearings.

And in similar fashion, Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 60 Judge Marissa Guillen said she might have a verdict by Aug. 25, almost a month from the trial's close on July 21.

Guillen would be rendering judgment on three accused: confessed Abu Sayyaf members Gamal Baharan, Abu Sayyaf, Angelo Trinidad, and Indonesian terror suspect Rohmat Abdurrohim, alias Jackie Zaky.

The three were tried by multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder arising from the bombing of a bus on Edsa near Ayala Avenue last Feb. 14.

Four people were killed while 60 others were hurt in the incident.

The charges entail a punishment of death through lethal injection, as repeatedly noted by Guillen in open court.

"The key to this speedy trial was efficient police work, credible intelligence, and the promptness and cleanliness of the judge and prosecutors," said State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, who pursued the case against the accused.

The trial was wrapped up in less than six months. It has outpaced the trial of the 2000 Rizal Day Light Rail Transit bombing case, which is still pending in the Manila Regional Trial Court.

A major development that helped expedite the hearing of the Feb. 14 case were the admissions of Baharan and Trinidad to planting the bomb on the bus.

Lone defense witness

At the trial's conclusion, Abdurrohim took the witness stand as the lone defense witness, and tearfully denied any involvement in planning the deadly attack.

"I do not know anything about the plan. I only went there to teach Islam and hang it," a trembling Abdurrohim told the court during a three-hour hearing Thursday afternoon.

With tears welling in his eyes, the 27-year-old Indonesian said he was asked to come to Mindanao through Zamboanga City from his boarding school in Java, Indonesia, to work as a missionary.

"I don't know how to make bombs and [illegible]. Even once in my life, I never called him (Boy Negro)," said Abdurrohim. He [illegible] with a [illegible] accent.

He was referring to state witness Sayyaf Rohmat Asali, the prosecution's key witness who had testified that Abdurrohim taught bomb-making to Abu Sayyaf members and ordered them by phone to carry bomb parts to Metro Manila for a mission early this year.

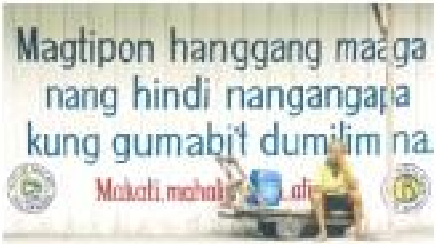
Clad in rubber slippers, a [illegible] and jeans, Abdurrohim [illegible] the six uniformed [illegible] as [illegible] appointed lawyers [illegible] his testimony.

In open court, he repeated that he was purely concerned for a 10-month teaching stint in a camp of armed men, which according to him he only later came to know as the Abu Sayyaf, or Harakatul Islamiyyah.

"I am not a member of the Abu Sayyaf. How can I be, when what they want is to separate from the Philippines, and I am already free there in Indonesia?" he said.

"In spite of my fear of them, I continued teaching them because I felt it was my duty to teach them Islam, which is a religion of peace," said the defense witness.

However, Velasco did not buy Abdurrohim's defense, saying the accused's testimony belied what he had voluntarily told investigators who interviewed him after his arrest.



PONDERING THE FUTURE
Eighty-one-year-old Benjamin Martinez appears to be in deep thought as he waits for his wife, who is manning their small sari-sari store near a construction site in Makati City.

Holiday foils UNO walkout plan

UNITED Opposition (UNO) member San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito said yesterday that Malacañang's declaration of a holiday today preempted a planned walkout of public school students and office workers in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona).

But while UNO attacked the holiday declaration, Malacañang defended the declaration saying it was meant to enable Filipinos to listen to the Sona. [illegible]

Oman cracks down on illegal aliens; overstaying Pinoys told to go home

By Leila B. Salaverria and Nikko Dizon



Palace rates GMA …

Lingering doubts

Spending compression

Revenues and corruption

On track

Culture of honesty

Tams tame Tigers; Eagles soar

By Jasmine W. Payo

EXPLOITING their deeper bench, the Far Eastern U Tamaraws crushed the University of Santo Tomas Tigers, 79-62, to remain the only unbeaten team in the UAAP basketball tournament yesterday at the Blue Eagle Gym in Loyola Heights.



The WORLD

Egypt mounts big manhunt after carnage

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt—Egypt launched a vast manhunt Sunday after the multiple bombings in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh that killed 88 people and fueled global terror fears after the London attacks.



WRECKED cars are strewn near a blast crater at the site of a car bomb explosion in the old town of Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, July 24.

MMDA to clear inner streets of obstruction

Afraid of clutter

Nice gift

Barangay pays tribute to a fruit

Tet Antiquiera, '80s bold star, dies

Natural cause

MetroBriefs



Parañaque unclogging project

Las Piñas City residents get health cards

London cops shot dead innocent man



BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE IT HOME! WITH

Indian man freed after 54 years in jail without trial

Burma likely wo

Besieged Malaysi





on't take Asean chair

ian minister's fate hangs



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Tell it like it is

Editorial



State of lies to the nation

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

The state of the nation

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

A truth commission?

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



Alternative scenario

COMMENTARY

Avelino Sebastian Jr

Legend of the 'Fall'

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa



Stop, look and listen

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



THEY SAID

Measuring rod

Elite power

Water power

Character flaws, change from within

LETTERS

IT'S not the system, stupid!

For the past weeks, the longest running *telenovela* that is Philippine politics was the undisputed No. 1 show in all rating surveys. No mean feat for a tragicomedy in a dead afternoon time slot. Some observers were regaled, others nauseated by the antics of the lightweight cast of hedonistic "over-actors."

As plot segued into counter plot, a line was drawn in the sand. The satraps of civil society started to panic, infecting some armchair generals and a few wannabe political sycophants. "Systems breakdown!" they cried. Followed, as if on cue, by the now all-too-familiar "Charter change!" ("How to Cha-cha to a parliamentary federal system with a 1-2, 1-2-3.")

Trapos are quick to toe the same line as they strut, preen and play to the gallery like the consummate snake oil salesmen that they are. In all that bedlam and Babel, they conveniently fail to mention that we have been changing systems since 1902, with apparently very little or no success.

Perhaps, we should take some pointers from the great Manuel Luis Quezon. On or about his 60th birthday, he hypothesized that certain character flaws, innate to Filipinos, prevented them from finding "their destiny, to conquer their place in the sun." He then forswore to undertake the regeneration of the Filipino people through the formulation and adoption of a code of ethics and personal conduct akin to the ancient Japanese Code of Bushido. "Cast away pretense and futile pride. . .because we could ill afford to suppress truth or to extenuate our shortcomings." He further declared that, "We lack earnestness. Face-saving is the dominant note in the confused symphony of our existence. Our sense of righteousness is often dulled by the desire for personal gain. Our norm of conduct is generally prompted by expediency rather that by principle. We show a failing in that superb courage which impels action because it is right, even at the cost of self-sacrifice. Our greatest fear is not to do wrong, but that of being caught doing wrong... There are those among us who are opt to compromise with ethical principles and to regard truth as not incompatible with misrepresentation or self-deceit."

It is a revelation to realize that one of this Republic's founding fathers was an amateur—albeit astute—psychoanalyst who, if he were around today, would have no problem finding a lucrative job writing screenplays for *telenovelas*.

Should MLQ's words strike close to home or seem hauntingly familiar, you are quite likely going through an epiphany of sorts. It's not the system, stupid! We could be given a second chance in the Garden of Eden today, and we would still screw it up and get the boot. We could have a hale and hearty Mother Teresa occupying Malacañang and still go through an Edsa IV.

If we are to truly change our world, we must first truly change from within.

—JOSE ENRIQUE J. YULO,
4/F CJ Yulo & Sons Bldg.,
Pasong Tamo cor. Don Bosco Road,
Makati City

Statesmanship and impaired presidency

THE MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines (MAP) asks our leaders to demonstrate statesmanship, which to us means acting in the interest of future generations of Filipinos.

We have a poor and growing population that must be fed, educated and integrated into our economy through jobs. We have an external environment that is difficult, made more acute with high oil prices. We face a potential fiscal crisis that has been exacerbated by the Supreme Court's recent issuance of a TRO (temporary restraining order). Corruption and criminality continue to plague our people. And the financial markets reflect the turmoil: the prices of Philippine stocks and bonds and the value of the peso have all dropped dramatically.

Given these challenges, the events of the past weeks have, in our view, seriously impaired the ability of the President to address these problems. The resignations of the most respected members of her Cabinet have further disabled the presidency. The longer the President stays in office under a cloud of doubt and mistrust, the greater the damage to the economy. And the greater is our vulnerability to forces seeking extra-constitutional means to grab power.

We acknowledge that the President has achieved commendable progress in many of her programs. And to preserve her legacy, she must now act with statesmanship and relinquish the presidency to her constitutionally mandated successor.

With God's grace and guidance, we pray that she will do what is best for our country and its future.

—RAFAEL LL. REYES
(on behalf of the Management Association of the Philippines), director, AIG Global Investment Corp. (Asia) Ltd., Philam Building, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Across the NATION

10,000 ARMM multiple registrants warned

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Elections warned some 10,000 multiple registrants in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao against casting votes in the Aug. 8 polls.



CONTROVERSIAL ART

Filmmaker defends Baguio street mosaic

Doctors' flight for jobs abroad worsen health services in Davao, Bicol hospitals

Lack of experts

No move

383 C. Luzon, S. Tagalog workers win case vs PLDT

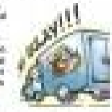


ROUNDUP

Radioman's 'killer' tagged

NBI raids warehouse

Extortion rap probed



Lepanto offers independent arbitration to settle strike

Back channel talks

Judge fines, jails local editor for contempt

Provinces brace for protest rallies

By PDI Bureaus

[illegible]

Going to QC's Fairview? Avoid Commonwealth Ave.

By Tarra V. Quismundo

[illegible]

PNP instructs men: Cool it, ignore taunts

[illegible]

Beseeching the Virgin

[illegible]

Prayer and fasting

[illegible]

Nothing has changed

[illegible]

Show biz stars, too

[illegible]

An American ally

[illegible]

Lizard-like effigy ready ...

[illegible]

Giant compact disc

[illegible]

Metamorphosis

[illegible]

A fighter jet

[illegible]

Going up in flames

[illegible]

45% of Sona listeners await lies

[illegible]

Ranked the lowest

[illegible]

Highest distrust rating

[illegible]

Father and son

[illegible]

Majority favor resignation

[illegible]



12 votes short to impeach

Circumspection urged

54-page complaint

Major legal blunder

PLDT firming up offer to buy Bayantel

Proposes swap of stake in Home Cable

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has offered to buy Bayan Telecommunications Inc. from the Lopez family through a swap deal involving PLDT's remaining stake in the home cable business, well-placed sources said.

The sources said the telecom giant had been negotiating with the Lopez family for some months now but the talks were stalled by an offer of PLDT rival Globe Telecom Inc. to buy Bayantel.

PLDT's offer was to swap its one-third ownership in Bayantel Cable Holdings—its joint venture with Lopez-owned SkyCable—with control of Bayantel. PLDT's Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc. merged with two Lopez cable companies last year.

However, Globe president Gerardo Ablaza was quick to deny that his company revived talks to acquire Bayantel. PLDT officials declined to comment on the issue. Bayantel chief consultant [illegible] said the company was actually planning to expand.

The joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom admitted that seven years ago, it made an offer to buy Bayantel, but that the talks bogged down.

As for PLDT and Bayantel, sources said exploratory talks have been going on for some time now.

"There have been talks (but) PLDT and Bayantel cannot even progress to the level of conduct...

PLDT/B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Projects worth P42B OKd /B7



Gabby's US gravy /B3



RP still world's text capital

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES has remained the world's texting capital due to the magnitude of the volume of short messaging system or SMS the country churns out everyday, according to Swedish telecom provider Ericsson.

"The Philippines still holds the world record when it comes to texting. Asia in general generates quite a large volume of SMS," said Ericsson president for Southeast Asia Jan Signell.

Ericsson executives estimate that about 200,000 text messages are sent daily in the Philippines. Operators charge an average of one peso for each SMS.

The visiting Ericsson executive said the Philippines made a mark globally because of its prevalent use of text messaging that allowed local operators to make a lot of money even if the average revenue for each user was lower compared to other countries.

Despite forecasts of Philippine operators that growth in the country's fastest growing sector may slow due to a slew of economic and political factors, the Ericsson executive said he believed that local players could come up with innovative ways to continue driving growth.

"Let us not underestimate the creativity of Filipino operators to generate traffic," said

RP STILL/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P55.890 = $1

As of 4 p.m., July 22, 2005

P18.88 = [illegible]

As of 4 p.m., July 22, 2005

GOLD $423.30-423.80

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Trading to track Sona outcome

STOCKS are expected to track the outcome of President Macapagal-Arroyo's annual State of the Nation Address today as she struggles to keep the country's fiscal and economic program on track amid attacks on her ability to rule.

Ms Arroyo has been under fire for alleged acts of cheating in the 2004 presidential elections.

Stock trading, which has been suspended today following Malacañang's declaration of a non-working holiday, resumes tomorrow.

"The outlook for (the) week will be influenced mainly by the President's speech and by corporate results that will be coming out. Investors hope that the President will focus on the economic and political reform agenda in her Sona. They want to see political and economic reforms that would help build up trust in the government," [illegible] said in a weekly report.

Last week, the market gained 57 points.

TRADING/B2

Political crisis may unite Mindanao

MindanaWorld



GMA backers

Contributing to fraud

Divided on issues

GFIs, GOCCs urged to remit more dividends

By Michelle V. Remo

Gabby's US gravy

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

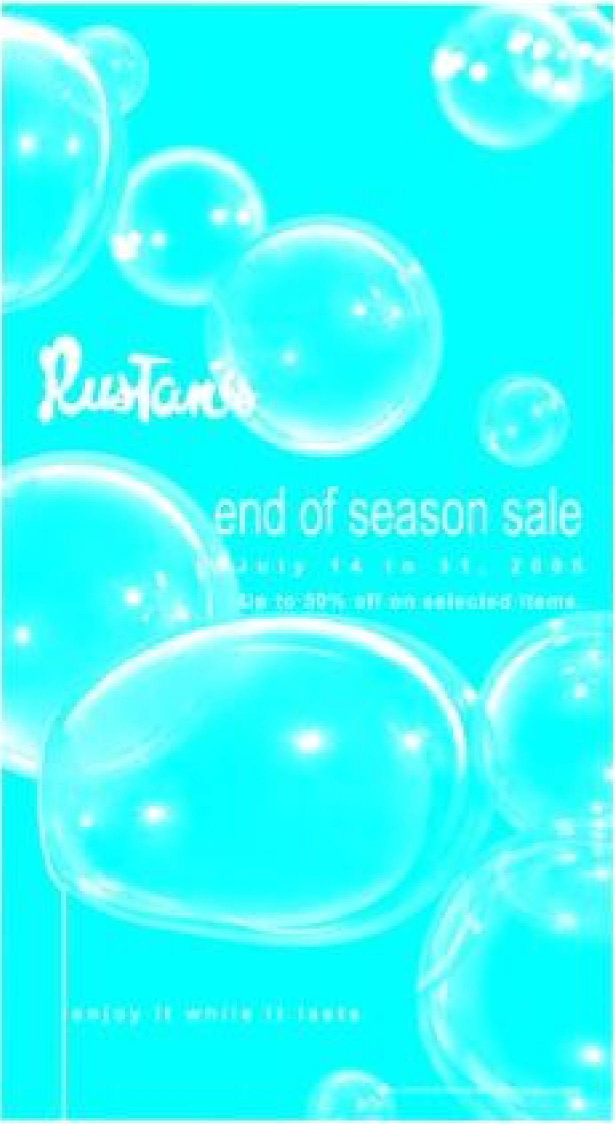
Wanted: Mike and Mikey

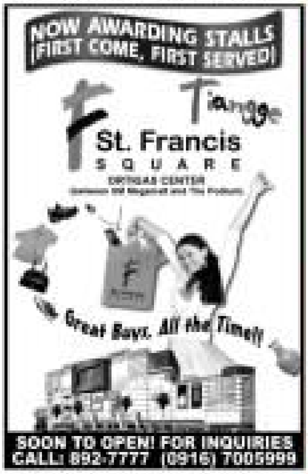
Money-go-round

Heard through the grapevine

PLDT firming up . . .









BUSINESS

EPCIB STANDOFF

BSP: Brawl shouldn't affect bank affairs

By Doris C. Dumlao

Napocor debt seen to ease with VAT law

By Abigail L. Ho

Gov't fuel conservation effort hits roadblock

PAL, Air Philippines to exp

Tourism program fuels local carriers' growth

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Airlines and Air Philippines Corp. are expanding their routes in Asia to cash in on the country's improving tourism industry particularly among the Chinese and South Koreans.

PAL president Jaime Bautista said the flag carrier would launch flights to Beijing in November.

"We plan to fly three times a week to Beijing starting November. The original timetable for this route is March 2006 but we advanced it because of the improving tourism picture," Bautista said in an interview.

Air Philippines, the low-cost carrier also controlled by taipan Lucio Tan, will start its twice-a-week charter flights to Cheongju, South Korea, today.

Leah Sison, spokesperson for Air Philippines, said that Cheongju would be the third South Korean destination for the company. The first two were Daegu and Kwangju.

Flights to Cheongju will take off regularly every Monday and Friday.

Sison said the Korean flights complement the airline's operations in Canton and Shenzhen in China. Air Philippines uses a 118-seater Boeing 737-200 for the regional trips.

Local carriers said they aligned their overseas operations with the government's tourism campaign. The country's four major tourism markets are the United States, Japan, China and South Korea.

Gokongwei's Cebu Air Pacific is mulling over its maiden flight to the United States in two years. By October, Cebu Pacific will be flying to Osaka in Japan. Its general manager, Danilo Mojica, said the Indonesia and Vietnam routes were also being studied.

The United States and Japan are the two biggest sources of tourist arrivals while China and Korea are catching up.

In the first quarter, there was a 40-percent increase in South Korean visitors and a 105-percent jump in arrivals from China. Tourism from Japan grew by only 7.8 percent.

State of the nation: An authoritative view



No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

THE WORLD Bank recently released one of the more authoritative analyses of our country's continuing development challenges in the document titled "Philippines: From Short Term Growth to Sustained Development." While I am not in complete agreement with all of the paper's analyses, the document captures most of the development issues confronting the nation quite well. More importantly, it supports its observations and analyses with ample data and references to the development literature.

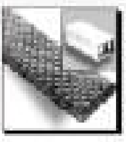
Productivity lag

The paper's analysis of the Philippines' long-term development perspective highlights what many of us already know, i.e. that our country's performance has fallen well short of our neighbors over the past decades. Our productivity, in particular, compares rather poorly with others. Output per Filipino worker grew by only about 1 percent a year over the last 43 years (1960-2003). In contrast, our neighbors averaged 4.4 percent, and all developing countries of the world combined averaged 1.4 percent. Thus, while output per Filipino worker rose by 50 percent through those four decades, it grew 450 percent, or nine times faster, elsewhere in East Asia. While our neighbors' growth mostly came from rising investment and productivity, ours came mostly from consumption, making up 85 percent of our average growth since 1990. The contribution of growth in physical capital to our overall economic growth was only a third of that in other East Asian economies. And while East Asia experienced an average 1.4-percent annual growth in total factor productivity (TFP) in the last 40 years, our own average annual TFP growth was actually negative in the same period!

Poor investment climate

The above trends trace to a large extent to the way the foreign investment surge that swept

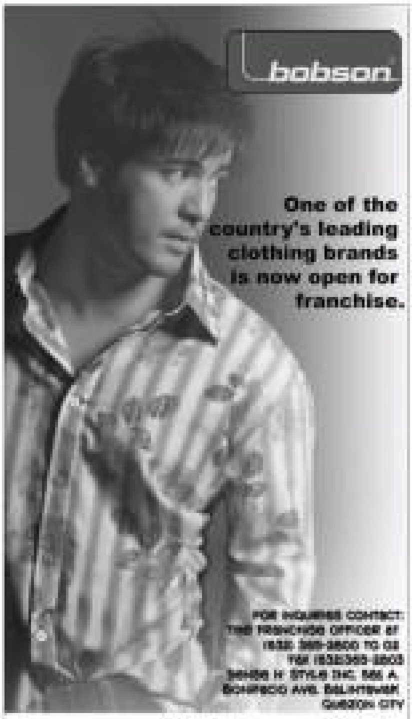
NO FREE LUNCH/ B10





SEC mulls over sanctions on 5 more pre-need firms

Palace backs tariff cut



BOI, Peza OK projects worth ₱42B

Those absurd opinion surveys

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

Auto loans extended by banks up 16% in March

Local demand for new vehicle models getting stronger



Equitable PCI BANK

Your Bank of Choice

July 22, 2005

JOINT STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We, the major shareholders of Equitable PCI Bank, wish to assure our depositors, creditors, investors and the public in general, that we are fully supportive of the bank and its Management and Staff. The bank is operating as usual and is ready to address the banking requirements of its customers with the efficient service it has been known for. Management continues to exercise its authority which it has been authorized in the past. While we may have contrasting views on some shareholder issues which we are currently in the process of resolving, we remain united in our trust in the professionalism and competence of the bank's Management Team.

We believe that the bank is firmly focused on its objective of becoming "Your Bank of Choice"—the best bank to do business with.

We take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support and confidence.

(Sgd.) **CORAZON S. DE LA PAZ**
President and Chief Executive Officer
Social Security System

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO L. GO**
Go Family

(Sgd.) **ATTY. WINSTON F. GARCIA**
President and General Manager
Government Service Insurance System

(Sgd.) **ATTY. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ**
Trans Middle East Corp.

Philippine Stock Exchange

Trading to track . . .

Increase . . .

To cut down on rice imports, DA chief tells Southern folk to turn to white corn



MOST PROMISING EXPORTER

No free lunch

Slow progress on poverty

Leadership failure

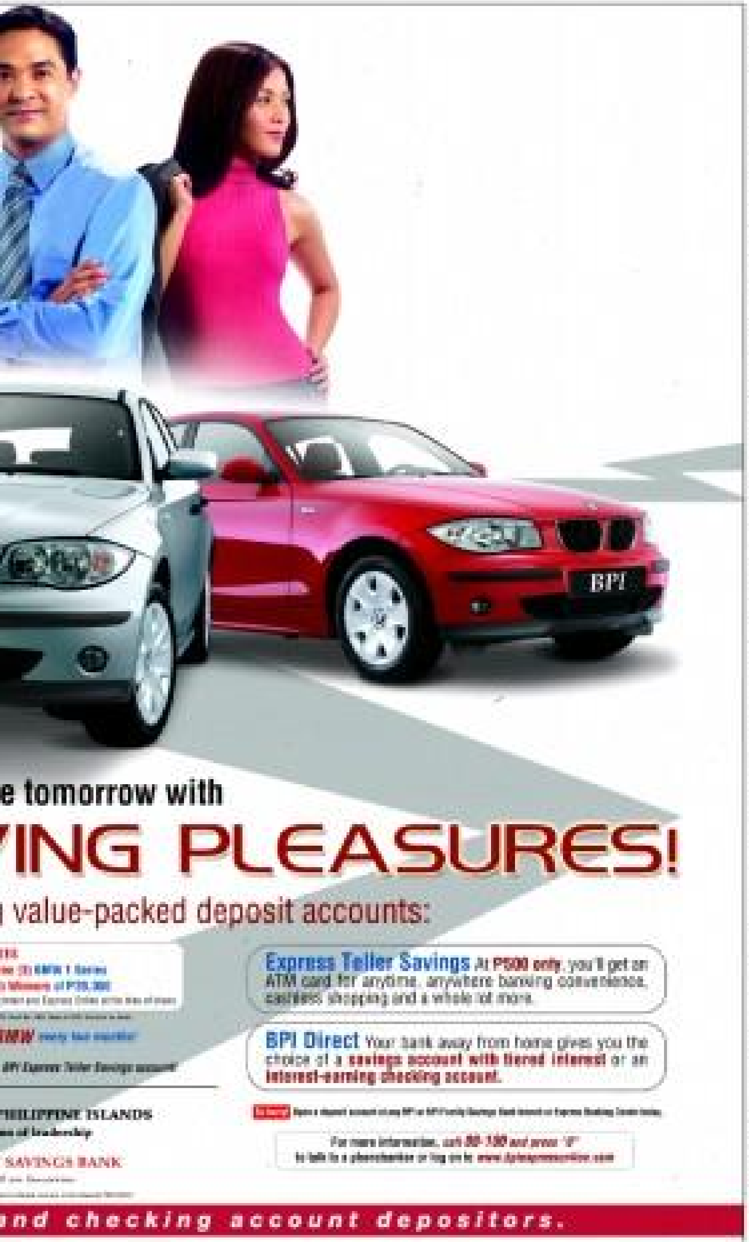
₱46B readied for lending to priority sectors



RP gets $64-M loan for water sanitation project

BCDA fast-tracks Subic-Clark expressway

RP still ...



LIFESTYLE

Editor: Chelo Banal-Formoso
Subscriber Editor: Lito B. Zulueta

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY



[illegible], a Bagobo prince, being taught how to deal with the Americans by [illegible]

Savagely powerful theater

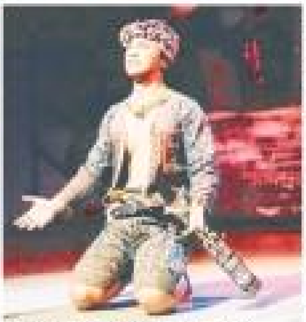
By Gibbs Cadiz

THE 300-SEATER Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater on the second floor of Palma Hall in UP Diliman, so named in honor of a great and beloved dramatist, is too cramped, too shabby and too pasty nowadays to contain the majesty and gravity of the new homegrown musical, "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos," that is lighting up the venue until the end of the month.

[illegible]

Captivating

[illegible]



MIGUEL Castro as Bobon in "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos"

The musical version of the drama about the infamous 1904 World Fair that portrayed Filipinos as savages is lofty, consequential



[illegible]

[illegible]

Firm addition

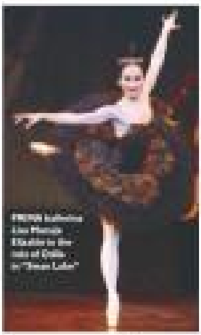
[illegible]





Ballet Manila's 'Swan Lake' features New York silver medalist





Savagely powerful . . .

Fluid storytelling

Ghostly images



Michael Victor Coo in standout concert

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor


ALEGRIA Ferrer

CELLIST Michael Victor Coo revealed marvelous facets of his artistry, exquisitely expressing warmth, intensity and dynamic power in his most recent concert at Pasig Museum with collaborative pianist Mary Anne Espina.

The concert was a standout. Coo produced fresh and ebullient tone from a confident, relaxed stance, secured by a thorough technical grounding. Above all, musicality was of the highest order; he showed a literate understanding of stylistic nuance over naive intuition.

Beyond playing the notes correctly with breathtaking rapidity, or etching dynamics starkly, "Loni," as Coo is fondly called, is a virtuoso in the truest sense of the word.

Technical brilliance merely serves as a vehicle for conveying a mature sense of musicality, which proceeds from a well-thought-of and stylistically correct reading of the pieces. Well-crafted phrases are etched from beginning to end.

His palette yields brilliant hues. His brand of playing definitely makes for a sublime listening. Truly, he knows his métier.

The program was excellent, made up of works of Boccherini, Beethoven, De Falla, Glazunov, Tchaikovsky and Abelardo.

From the exuberant tones he crafted in Boccherini's Sonata No. 6 in A Major, Loni was thoroughly appreciated as he moved on to his next pieces. Beethoven's Sonata in A Major, Op. 69 had a light, well-tempered appeal that revealed well-nuanced phrasing.

He shifted his gear to romantic disposition of the next pieces, singing warmly in the selections from Siete Canciones, of De Falla. His fingers ran adeptly through the entire fingerboard in Tchaikovsky's Pezzo Capricioso, Op. 62 and Glazunov's "Chant du menestrel."

Abelardo's "Cavatina" was rendered with utmost suaveness which retained its songlike simplicity. He did not indulge in melodrama, just plain, quiet singing.

Mary Anne Espina was in tight rapport, striking a workable tandem that made listening enjoyable. Her playing has improved immensely, showing much muscle in her tones.

A fast sight-reader, there is no way for her but to continually shine more. Eventually her tones would achieve much finesse to spell out a more relaxed touch with full dynamic depth.

The concert was the final offering of the 4th Pasig Summer Music Festival presented by Music News and Features. Former Pasig City vice mayor Lorna Bernardo graced the occasion. She was the moving force behind the festival which started some years ago, said Pablo Tariman, who hosted the concert.

Alegria Ferrer

Kudos to Alegria Ferrer, whose singing career is in full bloom, after she had bagged the Aliw Award as best female classical performer last year.

She stunned listeners with her moving rendition of Feliciano's "Locura Aria" from the opera "La Loba Negra" at the CCP last November. This feat was followed by her engagement with the PPO concert in December as a soloist of Bach's "Magnificat in D Major."

Singing in the *bel canto* style, she became the darling of opera-lovers in her magnificent portrayal of Euridice in Gluck's "Orpheus and Euridice," staged at Abeladro Hall in UP Diliman in March.

Twice, she sang in Japan, which were both well-received. She graced the celebration of the 21st International Philippine Festival in Nagoya, held in connection with the recent celebration of the 107th Philippine Independence.

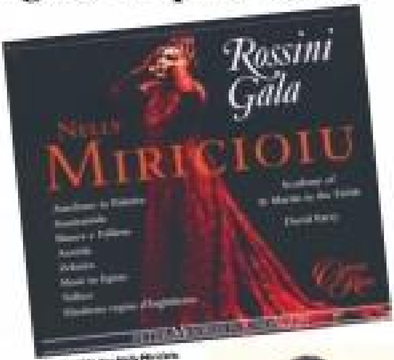
She went back to Japan on July 14 and sang at the World Expo at Aichi before the commissioners and generals and pavilion directors. Both engagements received critical acclaim. Our warmest congratulations!



"QUADRILLE" pianists Raul Sunico, Mary Ann Armovit, Della Besa and Anamaria de Guzman play for a cause on Aug. 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Band, Dela Costa St., Makati. The concert is sponsored by the MCO Foundation, the Equitable Bank and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Another eventful homecoming for Filipino tenor

Gonzaga's homecoming concerts have always been before or after a political upheaval





England's favorite

